

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polynucleotide that codes for a protein that is involved in phenotypic switching in *Candida albicans* and that hybridizes, under stringent conditions, to polynucleotide sequence 5 of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. A polynucleotide according to claim 1, having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

3. A polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein said protein displays kinase activity.

10 4. A method for screening compounds to identify pharmaceutical candidates for effectively inhibiting the pathogenicity of yeast, comprising the steps of (A) providing a plurality of cells from yeast species exhibiting phenotypic switching, at least some of which contain (i) a polynucleotide according to claim 1 and (ii) a promoter that is operably linked to said polynucleotide, such that said plurality produces said protein; then (B) bringing said plurality into contact with a test substance; and (C) assessing what effect, if any, said test substance has on the expression of said polynucleotide.

20 5. A method according to claim 4, wherein step (C) comprises monitoring the level of said protein produced by said plurality.

6. A method according to claim 4, wherein step (C) comprises monitoring the level of mRNA encoded by said DNA and produced by said plurality.

25 7. A method according to claim 4, wherein step (C) comprises monitoring the level of kinase activity within said plurality, wherein said kinase activity typifies said protein.

8. A method according to claim 4, wherein a promoter is operably linked to a reporter gene and wherein step (C) comprises monitoring the level of transcription of the reporter gene after contact between said plurality and said test substance.